What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method of automatically creating a plurality of individually customized

2   documents, each for a corresponding one of a plurality of individuals, said method

3   comprising the steps of:

4   creating a plurality of document components;

5   creating a plurality of rules governing document assembly;

6   providing document specific data and text, said provided data and text being

7   further specific to individuals intended to receive customized copies of documents

8   being published; and

9   providing a document request, said document request initiating assembly of a

10   document, said document being assembled responsive to said created rules and

11   provided data and text.

1   2.   A method as in claim 1 wherein the rules comprise:

2   document rules directing component selection and text selection;

3   condition rules directing selection of logic conditions to be evaluated; and

4   action rules directing document editing actions to be taken responsive to

5   logical evaluation of selected document rules and condition rules.

1   3.   A method as in claim 2 wherein a plurality of said document rules are

2   assembled into a logic function that is spread across multiple ones of said plurality of

3   condition rules.

1   4.   A method as in claim 3 wherein said plurality of document rules include

2   operators from condition rules directing collection of said multiple rules to form said

3   logic functions.

1   5.   A method as in claim 4 wherein ones of said document rules select other

2   subsequent document rules, condition rules and variable text rules.

1   6.   A method as in claim 5 wherein ones of said document rules conditionally

2   select said subsequent document rules, condition rules and variable text rules.

1   7.   A method as in claim 6 wherein said document rules further contain multiple

2   business layers, each of said business layers providing a client specific organization,

3   content and business rules.

1   8.   A method as in claim 7 wherein unused said business layers are marked null.

1   9.   A method as in claim 7 wherein said business layers provide document

2   component authorization security control, document reporting control and control for

3   searching and indexing rules blocks.

1   10.   A method as in claim 9 wherein document component authorization security

2   control designates user read and write access to document components.

1   11.   A method as in claim 1 wherein a plurality of said document rules are always

2   true, always true rules being unconditional rules.

1   12.   A method as in claim 1 wherein each of said condition rules is linked to a

2   document rule.

1   13.   A method as in claim 12 wherein each of said condition rules contain

2   pointers indicating any next condition and any subcondition.

1   14.   A method as in claim 13 wherein blocks of said condition rules are selected

2   for a corresponding document rule, said blocks providing a logic function to be

3   evaluated for said corresponding document rule.

1   15.   A method as in claim 1 wherein each of said action rules corresponds to one

2   of said document rules.

1   16.   A method as in claim 15 wherein each of said action rules contains a specific

2   action on a component with respect to said document being created.

1   17.   A method as in claim 15 wherein the plurality of said action rules are

2   grouped into groups, each group of action rules being identified for one of said

3   document rules.

1   18.   A method as in claim 16 wherein document components are inserted, deleted

2   or replaced as directed by a particular action rule.

1   19.   A data structure for automatically assembling a plurality of individually

2   customized documents, each assembled document for a corresponding one of a

3   plurality of individuals, said data structure comprising:

4   a plurality of selectable document components;

5   document rules directing document component selection and text selection;

6   condition rules each linked to one of said document rules and directing

7   selection of logic conditions to be evaluated;

8   action rules each linked to one of said document rules and directing

9   document editing actions to be taken responsive to logical evaluation of selected

10   document rules and condition rules; and

11   collected data and text, document specific and specific to individuals

12   intended to receive customized copies of documents being published, whereby in

13   response to a document request initiating assembly of a document, said document is

14   assembled responsive to said created rules and collected data and text.

1   20.   A data structure as in claim 19 wherein selecting a block of said document

2   rules selects a logic function that is spread across multiple ones of said plurality of

3   condition rules.

1   21.   A data structure as in claim 20 wherein ones of said document rules are

2   linked to select other subsequent document rules, condition rules and variable text

3   rules.

1   22.   A data structure as in claim 21 wherein ones of said document rules are

2   linked to conditionally select said subsequent document rules, condition rules and

3   variable text rules.

1   23.   A data structure as in claim 22 wherein said document rules further contain

2   multiple business layers, each of said business layers providing client specific

3   organization, content and business rules, unused said business layers being marked

4   null.

1   24.   A data structure as in claim 23 wherein said business layers contain

2   document component authorization security control, document reporting control and

3   control for searching and indexing rules blocks.

1   25.   A data structure as in claim 24 wherein document component authorization

2   security control authorizes read and write access for selected document components.

1   26.   A data structure as in claim 22 wherein a plurality of said document rules are

2   always true, always true rules being unconditional rules.

1   27.   A data structure as in claim 19 wherein ones of said condition rules point to a

2   next condition and a subcondition.

1   28.   A data structure as in claim 27 wherein each of said action rules contains a

2   specific action on a component with respect to a document being created.

1   29.   A data structure as in claim 28 wherein said action rules selectively cause

2   linked document components to be inserted, deleted or replaced in a document being

3   created.